



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Volunteer opportunities

2003 Town Meeting committee openings

Each year the Town Meeting creates one or more committees to investigate solutions, do research, or otherwise address some matters of public concern, Moderator John L. Worden III reported.

The opportunity to serve on such committees gives citizens a chance to become involved in some aspect of public affairs of particular interest to them, and provides ways to contribute to the community, drawing upon their particular areas of expertise.

Worden wrote that he is the responsibility of appointing some or all of the members of such committees. Appointments for which volunteers are sought are:

Affordable Housing Task Force (Article 26 – 1999). Four members are required, and those to be considered include “low to moderate income residents, public housing tenants, seniors of low to moderate income...[those] who have interest and/or experience in the area of open space planning, affordable housing, and community development.”

Noise Abatement Study Committee (Article 27 – 1998). Anyone who has been bothered by rumbling trucks or a leaf blower disrupting his or her Sunday afternoon might be interested in this committee, which has a vacancy for one Town Meeting member.

Re-inspection of Vacant Premises Committee (Article 19 – 2003). Two citizens are needed to work with the Building Inspector, Town Counsel, and Fire Chief to study re-inspection of vacant rental units with a view to compliance with fire codes and other safety regulations.

School Facilities Working Group (Article 12 – 1994 STM). This committee was temporarily enlarged by this year’s Town Meeting (vote under Article 74) to include four Town Meeting members, so that each elementary school district can be represented. The committee is directed to explore the options for completing the re-modeling of the Town’s elementary schools in the wake of the Commonwealth’s delay in promised reimbursement for the projects already undertaken. I need Town Meeting members who reside in the Peirce and Thompson school districts.

Tree Committee (Article 29 – 2003). Concern for the preservation of shade trees on both public and private property precipitated the creation of this committee to study the advisability of enacting a by law, perhaps along the lines of that adopted last year in Lexington. Four citizens are needed.

Zoning By Law Review (Article 8 – 1999). This committee is to review aspects of the present Zoning By Law with respect to “differentiation among different zones... size requirements...and protection [for] historic and open spaces.” In this year's Town Meeting the committee obtained approval of the “Special Places” By Law. Members are needed who are lawyers and/or Town Meeting members.

Anyone wishing to apply for one of these appointments for public service is urged to send Worden an expression of interest, by mail at 27 Jason St., or by facsimile to 617-227-1961, or by e-mail to jworden@swwalaw.com.